

Miscellaneous Notes

1. THE WILD DOG [*CUON ALPINUS* (PALLAS)] AND THE TIGER [*PANTHERA TIGRIS* (LINN.)]

During a short visit to Kanha National Park in February 1963, an interesting incident throwing further light on the relations between the wild dog and the tiger came to my notice and is recorded below.

On the 20th February at about 3 a.m., loud alarm calls of chital and swamp deer near Kanha Forest House indicated the presence of a large carnivore in the vicinity. At about 8 a.m., vultures and crows were seen collecting near a spot in the forest hardly a kilometre from the Forest House. Some local boys, sent to investigate, soon returned rather frightened and reported that a fight between a pack of wild dogs and a tiger was in progress and that they had heard at very close range the fierce growls of the tiger and the yaps of wild dogs. After making loud noises to scare away the fighting carnivores, I visited the spot with some local people. About a dozen wild dogs were seen feeding on the kill, a chital doe. They left the kill 'under protest' on human approach. The tiger could not be seen but the details of a grim drama of the Indian jungle could easily be made out. An old, thick and straight sal tree (*Shorea robusta*) about 10 metres from the kill was profusely covered with fresh claw marks of the tiger up to a height of about 5 metres. The lowest branches of the tree were at a height of about 7 metres. Obviously the tiger had not succeeded in climbing the tree and had slipped down and been attacked by the wild dogs. The leaves below the tree were smeared with blood drops which could be followed deep into the forest showing the route of the retreat of the mauled tiger. Tiger pug marks near the dead chital and the other marks at the spot suggest that the tiger killed the chital and was chased away by the wild dogs. The fact that the tiger was able to kill a deer and to ascend a branchless tree up to the said height shows that it was quite healthy.

CENTRAL REGIONAL STATION,
ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
JABALPUR,
May 4, 1963.

H. KHAJURIA

[Lt.-Col. R. W. Burton in 'The Indian Wild Dog' (*Journal*, Vol. 41 : 691-715) lists records of fights between wild dog and tiger and suggests that the most frequent reason for such encounters probably is 'the killing by a tiger of an animal being hunted by the dogs and the ensuing fight for their quarry by the ravening pack'.—EDS.]

2. 'BAT MIGRATION IN INDIA AND OTHER NOTES ON BATS' : A CORRECTION

In my paper 'Bat Migration in India and Other Notes on Bats' (1948, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 47 : 522-526) I mentioned *Rhinolophus rouxi* (Temm.) as one of the bats ringed at Elephanta Island, Bombay, by me together with Sálím Ali and Charles McCann. In May 1962, when I visited the island with Lord Medway, he drew my attention to the fact that the smaller bat with pointed ears (which in my paper I had referred to as *Rhinolophus rouxi*) was in fact *Hipposideros speoris* (Schneider). Later, at the Society's Office, we verified that four specimens collected by McCann in 1942 and marked *R. rouxi* are in fact *H. speoris*. This error was noticed by M. Brosset when examining the skins in the Society's office, but was not then separately recorded as I thought it would be referred to in his paper. It would appear, therefore, that our earlier notes were based on a wrong identification.

Incidentally, several of the bats seen by us in May 1963 bore rings, presumably those placed by Brosset in November 1959 and February 1961 (1962, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 59 : 612).

MESSRS FAIZ & Co.,

75, ABDUL REHMAN STREET,

BOMBAY 3,

July 18, 1963.

HUMAYUN ABDULALI

3. A PIEBALD *RATTUS NORVEGICUS* (BERKENHOUT) FROM BOMBAY

(With a plate)

During the rat-flea survey of G/north Ward of Greater Bombay a curious solitary female specimen of rat was trapped on 6 February 1960 in the locality of Library Road, Dadar. It was heavily infested, all twenty-five fleas being *Xenopsilla cheopis* (Rothschild).